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Proposed Maximum Residue Limit PMRL2010-65

Thiamethoxam

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Under the authority of the *Pest Control Products Act*, Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) is proposing to establish maximum residue limits (MRLs) for thiamethoxam in or on root vegetables (Crop Subgroup 1A) and leaves of root vegetables, leafy vegetables (Crop Groups 4 and 5), cucurbit vegetables (Crop Group 9), citrus fruits (Crop Group 10-09), pome fruits (Crop Group 11), stone fruits (Crop Group 12), berries (Crop Subgroups 13-07A, 13-07F and 13-07G; except cranberries and gooseberries), avocados, barley, black sapotes, canistels, coffee, globe artichokes, hops (dried), mamey sapotes, mangoes, papayas, peppermint tops, potatoes, raisins, sapodillas, spearmint tops, star apples and undelinted cotton seed to permit the import and sale of food containing such residues.

Thiamethoxam is an insecticide currently registered for use in Canada on a number of cereal, fruit, legume, oilseed and vegetable commodities.

The PMRA has determined the quantity of residues that are likely to remain in or on the imported food commodities when thiamethoxam is used according to label directions in the exporting country. The Agency has also determined that such residues will not be a concern to human health and is proposing to legally establish corresponding import MRLs. An MRL applies to the identified raw agricultural food commodity as well as to any processed food product that contains it, except where separate MRLs are specified for the raw agricultural commodity and a processed product made from it.

Details regarding the import MRLs can be found in the corresponding Evaluation Report available in the Pesticides and Pest Management section of Health Canada's website, under Public Registry, Pesticide Product Information Database.[1]

Currently, all commodities without a specified MRL for thiamethoxam are covered under the 0.02 ppm MRL established for "All food crops (other than those listed in this item)". MRLs established for potato commodities are also proposed for revision under this action.

Consultation on the proposed MRLs for thiamethoxam is being conducted via this document (see Next Steps, the last section of this document).

To comply with Canada's international trade obligations, consultation on the proposed MRLs is also being conducted internationally by notifying the World Trade Organization, as coordinated by the Standards Council of Canada.

[1] The relevant report can be accessed by selecting the Applications/Amendment/Historical tab and opening the Evaluation Report found under Application Number 2007-7220.

The proposed MRLs for thiamethoxam in Canada in or on food, to replace the corresponding MRLs already legally established, are as follows.

Table 1 Proposed Maximum Residue Limits for thiamethoxam

Common Name	Residue Definition	MRL (ppm	Food Commodity
Thiamethoxam	3-[(2-chloro-5-thiazolyl)methyl] tetrahydro-5-methyl-*N*-nitro-4*H*-1,3,5-oxadiazin-4-imine, including the metabolite (*E*)-*N*-[(2-chloro-5-thiazolyl) methyl]-*N*'-methyl-*N*''-nitroguanidine	4.5	Head and stem Brassica (Crop Subgroup 5A)
		4.0	Leafy vegetables, except Brassica (Crop Group 4)
		3.0	Leafy Brassica greens (Crop Subgroup 5B)
		1.5	Peppermint tops, spearmint tops
		0.8	Black salsify tops, celeriac tops, chicory tops, edible burdock tops, garden beet tops, oriental radish tops, radish tops, rutabaga tops, turnip tops, turnip-rooted chervil tops
		0.5	Stone fruits (Crop Group 12)
		0.45	Globe artichokes
		0.4	Citrus fruits (Crop Group 10-09), avocados, black sapotes, canistels, mamey sapotes, mangoes, papayas, sapodillas, star apples
		0.35	Caneberries (Crop Subgroup 13-07A)
		0.3	Low growing berries (Crop Subgroup 13-07G, except cranberries), barley, raisins
		0.2	Cucurbit vegetables (Crop Group 9), pome fruits (Crop Group 11), small fruit vine climbing except fuzzy kiwifruit (Crop Subgroup 13-07F, except gooseberries)
		0.15*	Potatoes
		0.1	Undelinted cotton seed, hops (dried)
		0.05	Root vegetables (Crop Subgroup 1A), coffee

* Proposed to replace the currently established MRLs of 0.05 ppm for potatoes and 0.08 ppm for potato chips. A separate MRL for potato chips is no longer required as all processed commodities will be included under the revised raw agricultural commodity MRL.

MRLs are proposed for commodities included in the listed crop groupings in accordance with Appendix I.

A complete list of all MRLs established in Canada can be found on the Maximum Residue Limits for Pesticides webpage in the Pesticides and Pest Management section of Health Canada's website.

International Situation and Trade Implications

With the exception of the commodities indentified in Table 2, the proposed MRLs for thiamethoxam in Canada are the same as corresponding tolerances established in the United States (tolerances are listed in the Electronic Code of Federal Regulations, 40 CFR Part 180, by pesticide). Currently, Codex Alimentarius MRLs[2] have not been established for thiamethoxam on any commodity. A listing of all established Codex MRLs is available on the Codex Alimentarius Pesticide Residues in Food website.

Table 2 Comparison of Canadian MRLs and American Tolerances (where different)

Food Commodity	Canadian MRL (ppm)	American Tolerance (ppm)
Black salsify tops, celeriac tops, chicory tops, edible burdock tops, garden beet tops, oriental radish tops, rutabaga tops, turnip tops, turnip-rooted chervil tops	0.8	No tolerance established*
Potatoes	0.15	0.25

* A 0.8 ppm tolerance is established for radish tops but not for the remaining leaves of root vegetables included in this MRL action.

Next Steps

The PMRA invites the public to submit written comments on the proposed MRLs for thiamethoxam up to 75 days from the date of publication of this document. Please forward your comments to Publications (see the contact information on the cover page of this document). The PMRA will consider all comments received before making a final decision on the proposed MRLs for thiamethoxam and posting a corresponding Established Maximum Residue Limit document in the Pesticides and Pest Management section of Health Canada's website.

[2] The Codex Alimentarius Commission is an international organization under the auspices of the United Nations that develops international food standards, including MRLs.

Appendix I

Crop Groups: Numbers and Definitions

Crop Group		Crop Subgroup		Food Commodities Included in the Crop Group or Subgroup
No.	Name	No.	Name	
1	Root and tuber vegetables	1A	Root vegetables	Black salsify roots Carrot roots Celeriac roots Chicory roots Edible burdock roots Garden beet roots Ginseng roots Horseradish roots Oriental radish roots Parsnip roots Radish roots Rutabaga roots Salsify roots Skirret roots Spanish salsify roots Sugar beet roots Turnip roots Turnip-rooted chervil roots Turnip-rooted parsnip roots
4	Leafy vegetables (except Brassica vegetables)			Amaranth Arugula Cardoon Celery Celtuce Chinese celery Corn salad Dandelion leaves Dock Edible leaved chrysanthemum Endives Fresh chervil leaves Fresh Florence fennel leaves and stalk Fresh parsley leaves Garden cress Garden purslane Garland chrysanthemum Head lettuce Leaf lettuce New Zealand spinach Orach leaves Radicchio Rhubarb Spinach Swiss chard Upland cress Vine spinach Winter purslane

Crop Group		Crop Subgroup		Food Commodities Included in the Crop Group or Subgroup
No.	Name	No.	Name	
5	Brassica (cole) leafy vegetables	5A	Head and stem Brassica	Broccoli Brussels sprouts Cabbages Cauliflower Chinese broccoli Chinese mustard cabbages Kohlrabi Napa Chinese cabbages
5	Brassica (cole) leafy vegetables	5B	Leafy Brassica greens	Bok choy Chinese cabbages Broccoli raab Collards Kale Mustard greens Mustard spinach Rape greens
9	Cucurbit vegetables			Balsam apples Balsam pears Cantaloupes Chayote fruit Chinese cucumbers Chinese waxgourds Citron melons Cucumbers Edible gourds (other than those listed in this item) Muskmelons (other than those listed in this item) Pumpkins Summer squash Watermelons West Indian gherkins Winter squash
10-09	Citrus fruit			Australian desert limes Australian finger limes Australian round limes Brown River finger limes Calamondins Citrus citron Citrus hybrids Grapefruits Japanese summer grapefruits Kumquats Lemons Limes Mediterranean mandarins Mount White limes New Guinea wild limes Oranges Pummelos Russell River limes Satsuma mandarins Sweet limes Tachibana oranges

Crop Group		Crop Subgroup		Food Commodities Included in the Crop Group or Subgroup
No.	Name	No.	Name	
				Tahiti limes Tangelos Tangerines Tangors Trifoliate oranges Uniq fruits
11	Pome fruits			Apples Crabapples Loquats Mayhaws Oriental pears Pears Quinces
12	Stone fruits			Apricots Nectarines Peaches Plumcots Plums Prune plums Sweet cherries Tart cherries
13-07	Berry and small fruit	13-07A	Caneberry	Blackberries Loganberries Raspberries Wild raspberries
13-07	Berry and small fruit	13-07F	Small fruit vine climbing, except fuzzy kiwifruit	Amur river grapes Gooseberries* Grapes Hardy kiwifruit Maypop Schisandra berries
13-07	Berry and small fruit	13-07G	Low growing berry	Bearberries Bilberries Cloudberries Cranberries** Lingonberries Lowbush blueberries Muntries Partridgeberries Strawberries

* Gooseberries are excluded from this MRL action as a corresponding 0.2 ppm MRL was proposed under PMRL2009-19

** Cranberries are excluded from this MRL action